

CLASS OF 1863

OF

HARVARD COLLEGE

MEMOIRS

JUNE, 1914, TO MARCH, 1915





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HARVARD COLLEGE  
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## HARVARD COLLEGE. CLASS OF 1863.

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AMOS LAWRENCE MASON, son of Charles (Harvard, 1832) and Susannah (Lawrence) Mason, was born in Salem, Massachusetts, April 20, 1842. He died at Menand's, near Albany, New York, on June 5, 1914. Mason's father was rector for many years of St. Peter's Church, Salem; afterwards of Grace Church in Boston. Mason's mother was daughter of Amos Lawrence of Boston. Charles and Robert Means Mason were sons of Jeremiah Mason, an eminent member of the bar, who was a contemporary and rival of Daniel Webster in many a well-fought legal battlefield, and had not only a distinguished judicial career but was United States Senator from New Hampshire. His father, Jeremiah, was a colonel in the Revolution, and commanded a company of Minute Men during the siege of Boston, and was fifth in descent from Major John Mason.

Lawrence Mason fitted for college at the Boston Public Latin School and at the well-known school of Mr. Epes S. Dixwell, which was called at that time the Private Latin School. Graduating with his class in 1863, he entered the Harvard Law School, having probably in contemplation the adoption of the profession of his distinguished grandfather. Eventually, however, he chose medicine as his profession, and studied at the Harvard Medical School from 1868 to 1872, when he received the degree of M.D. During his last year in the school he served as house pupil at the Massachusetts General Hospital. After graduation he continued his medical studies in Berlin, Vienna, Paris, and London, and began the practice of his profession in Boston in 1873.

Mason occupied many positions of importance during his medical career. Among them may be mentioned that of physician to the Boston Dispensary and to the Carney Hospital and the Channing Home for Incurables. In 1877 he became connected

with the Boston City Hospital, rising gradually to be senior physician. Since his resignation, in 1908, he has been on the list of consulting physicians of that institution. In the Harvard Medical School he became in succession instructor, assistant professor, and associate professor of clinical medicine until 1899, when he resigned. It will thus be seen that he occupied a leading position in a great metropolitan hospital for thirty years, and for much of this time in the Medical Department of the Harvard Medical School.

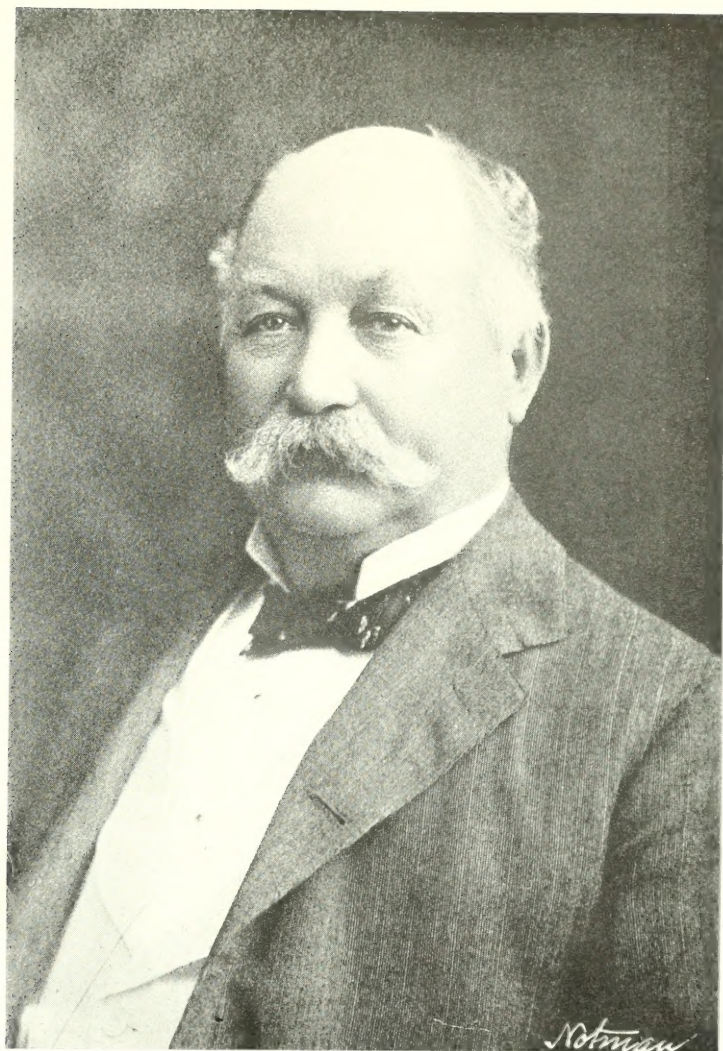
He was at one time a councillor of the Massachusetts Medical Society and a member of the Association of American Physicians, one of the most select medical organizations in this country. In 1895 he was made president of the Suffolk District Medical Society, and in 1896 president of the Boston Society for Medical Improvement. He also was a member of the Society of the Colonial Wars.

Mason made many contributions to clinical medicine, which appeared from time to time in periodical literature, and he also took a prominent part in the preparation of the History of the Boston City Hospital.

He was married, September 30, 1874, to Louisa Blake Steedman, daughter of Rear-Admiral Charles Steedman. His daughter, Marion Steedman, was born July 17, 1875, and was married on March 11, 1902, to Richard T. Wilson, Jr., of New York. His grandchildren are Louisa Steedman Wilson, born April 26, 1904, and Marion Mason Wilson, born April 21, 1906.

It is well to record here that Mason was one of the most popular members of our class while in college, being president of the Hasty Pudding Club and deputy marshal of the Porcellian Club, of which latter club, after his graduation, he was three times made grand marshal; and the qualities which attracted fellow-students towards him were the same that were the keynote of his success in after life. Although not ambitious as a student, without apparent effort he passed creditably through his college career. Though not compelled to devote himself to any laborious occupation, he was far from contented with a life of leisure, and after a





Yours very truly  
A. Lawrence Mason.



period of travel in Europe he found that his tastes led him to select a medical career; and once having arrived at this decision he entered into his chosen occupation with great enthusiasm.

As the boy developed into the man, the traits which had been a passport for him in his early days paved the way for steady advancement until he reached the highest positions which fall to the lot of the medical practitioner. There was a certain magnetism about Mason by which all who came in contact with him were more or less influenced, and this was due to no apparent exertion on his part. The peculiar mental traits which combined to produce this impression may be roughly stated as sympathy and character. No one who came into intimate contact with Mason, either as friend or patient, could go away without being comforted by his reception and encouraged and convinced by his advice. And this feeling was imparted to young and old alike — the grandchild and the octogenarian were one and all susceptible to the charm which he so unconsciously exerted. As Mason walked out of the room on the evening of a social gathering of some of his classmates three days before his death, these traits of mind and heart were all referred to by those left behind as a spontaneous tribute to the charming qualities of his character.

His retirement from active medical practice was a real sorrow and loss to those who were accustomed to lean upon him for advice, but, as we now see it, failing health warned him to avoid the fatiguing duties which the success of an exacting career had brought upon him.

In the early days of his medical career he practiced occasionally at some of the more popular summer resorts, such as are to be found at Bar Harbor and in the White Mountains. He also sought relaxation and great enjoyment in a sport which was at that time little developed as compared with its present-day popularity. He was one of the early members of the Ristigouche Salmon Club, and a pioneer on the fishing grounds of Canada, which have since become so famous. Here in vacation time, in company with his wife, who, like himself, was an expert angler, he experienced all the keen pleasures of river and forest life on

one of the finest salmon rivers of the world. This gave strength and renewed activity, and undoubtedly enabled him to pursue his chosen profession longer than would otherwise have been possible. After the death of his wife, which took place August 3, 1908, and his retirement from practice, he passed many winter seasons at Palmetto Bluff in South Carolina in company with his daughter and grandchildren, and here in his old age, almost literally "under his own vine and fig tree," surrounded by the younger members of his family, he passed a quiet, happy, and peaceful existence. It was at this time that his literary taste again asserted itself and he occupied many of his leisure hours in preparing a family memoir.

It was on his return from the South and during the fatigues of preparing for a summer trip that a weakness of the heart, which had been kept more or less dormant, developed, and on his way to his summer camp in Canada death came suddenly, but without pain or distress, in the home of an old-time friend.

He has left behind him for us many charming recollections — the bright active pugnacious schoolboy, the popular collegian, the wise and sympathetic companion of later years, are all memories which will cling to us when we think of our classmate and friend.

J. C. WARREN.

FREDERIC CROMWELL, son of David and Rebecca (Bowman) Cromwell, was born in Cornwall, New York, February 16, 1843. He died at his home in Bernardsville, New Jersey, June 22, 1914.

He fitted for college at College Hill, Poughkeepsie, New York, and at Russell Military School, New Haven, Connecticut. After graduation from college he began the study of law, but gave it up and went abroad for nearly a year.

While during college days my acquaintance with Cromwell was not very intimate, as the alphabetical order of our names placed us in different divisions, yet as many of the men from Boston and vicinity were acquainted with one another before entering college,





Very truly Yours  
Frederic C. Conwell,



there resulted a tendency to bring somewhat together those who came from outside of New England.

I remember that when in our Sophomore year the Prince of Wales was about to visit Boston, a meeting of the Class was called to consider what action on its part would be appropriate, and Cromwell made an impassioned appeal to his classmates to dignify the occasion by all appearing in silk hats. His tall figure, dark hair, and rather dashing manner gave him an air of distinction which he retained through life, and he was one of the few whose hair did not become gray or scanty with advancing years.

After three years of comparative indifference to study and marks, although he was in the first half of the class both Sophomore and Junior years, in his Senior year he settled down to show that he could work if he chose to do so, and, if I remember rightly, climbed up to near the first twenty.

In 1865 Cromwell and B. T. Frothingham went to Europe together, when I joined them, and for several months we were a good deal together. Cromwell was a charming travelling companion, and popular with every one we met. We had no exciting adventures, but little incidents too slight to mention here formed material for pleasant reminiscences in after years. On his return to America he settled at first in Brooklyn. I remember that at this period he was very successful in private theatricals.

He was married in Brooklyn, January 8, 1868, to Esther Whitmore Husted, daughter of Seymour L. Husted of that city, and his married life was an eminently happy one. After his marriage he spent several years in St. Louis, developing the local gas company there. In 1874 he resigned this position. After this he returned to Brooklyn, and his business interests there continued to be in gas companies, in addition to which he became an officer in several of the street railway companies. He took an active part in movements for political reform, was the first president of the Brooklyn Civil Service Reform Association and later a member of the first Civil Service Commission in that city. He was interested largely in both art and musical matters, being president of the Brooklyn Art Association and vice president of the Philharmonic

Society, and an enthusiastic supporter and friend of Theodore Thomas. In June, 1884, he was elected treasurer of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, of which he had been a trustee for several years. He removed his residence to New York, and devoted himself energetically to the duties of his position, building it up to one of great financial importance. This position he held about twenty-two years. The investigation by Governor Hughes into the affairs of the life insurance companies of New York left Cromwell entirely unscathed. Subsequently he was made president of the company; but failing health obliged him after a year to resign this position, and thereafter he spent much of his time at his country place at Bernardsville, New Jersey.

The death of his wife, May 20, 1909, was a great blow to him, and increased his disinclination to participate actively in business affairs. His physical activity was gradually impaired, and for several years before his death he had been severing his connection with the numerous directorates of banking and railroad and other companies which his varied interests had thrust upon him, and had been preparing for the end which it was evident could not be far distant.

Cromwell's popularity was well merited, and I am sure that he was much loved by all who knew him well.

He left four children, three daughters and a son, Seymour Legrand Cromwell (Harvard 1892), and three grandchildren.

W. A. WHITE.

THOMAS BELLOWES PECK, son of Philip and Martha Eleanor (Bellows) Peck, was born in Walpole, New Hampshire, August 18, 1842. He died in Salem, Massachusetts, January 2, 1915.

He fitted for college at the Walpole (New Hampshire) High School and the Boston Public Latin School. His health, which was never robust, was affected unfavorably by the change from country to city life and by too close application to study at the Latin School. and at the close of the Junior year in college became so much impaired that he was obliged to leave college and return to Walpole.



He took very high rank while in college, being first scholar for the first six months of Freshman year, and was only prevented from retaining that rank by some breakdown in his health. His name stands second on the list for Freshman and Sophomore years. He was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. He received his degree in 1864 as of the Class of 1863. He was twice in the service of the United States Sanitary Commission, each time in the Special Relief Department. His first term of service extended from early in December, 1862, till April, 1863, when he spent some time with the Army of the Potomac, which he reached immediately after the battle of Fredericksburg. His second term of service comprised the months of June and July, 1865.

In the fall of 1866 he went into the office of Edward S. Philbrick, treasurer of the Tremont Watch Company, in Boston, where he remained until the fall of 1868. From that time until 1875 he was with the firm of Crosby, Morse, and Foss, jewellers, Boston. He was afterwards associated with Henry D. Morse for ten years in the business of cutting diamonds from the rough and dealing in precious stones, in which work Mr. Morse was the leading expert in this country. He resided in Melrose, Massachusetts, from 1866 to June, 1887, when he was obliged to give up active work, and he then returned to Walpole, New Hampshire.

He served on the School Committee in Melrose, acting as chairman a portion of the time, and was trustee of the Melrose Public Library. Peck had not engaged in any regular business since returning to Walpole in 1887, but had been interested in gardening and outdoor life, and had taken some part in town affairs. He was secretary of the Walpole Town Library Committee from 1891 to 1911, treasurer of the same committee from 1897 to 1911, secretary of Walpole Old Home Week Association, vice-president of the Unitarian Club, trustee of the Savings Bank of Walpole, one of three commissioners of the Village District, highway surveyor, member of Cemetery Committee, and secretary of the Homestead Golf Club.

He was a member of the New England Historic-Genealogical

Society, and devoted considerable time and labor to local history and genealogy. He delivered an address before the Keene Harvard Club, December 9, 1904, on "Harvard in the Early Sixties."

He published in 1898 "The Bellows Genealogy," a very full and interesting work of over six hundred and fifty pages, all written, and in great part rewritten, by his own hand for the sake of accuracy. He also published other books and pamphlets of genealogical interest.

Since 1909 he had been out of health, and had gradually withdrawn from activity in town affairs. For the last two or three years he had spent most of the time in Salem under the care of a physician of that city, and there he died. He was never married and was the last of his family. Peck's original plan for life work was to study medicine, but his health never permitted him to carry out his plan. He roomed with Knapp in Freshman year, and with Arthur Lincoln the rest of the time he was at college. In Senior year they took 19 Holworthy, the room in which ever since, with scarcely an exception, our Class has held its annual meetings, although Peck was absent from college practically the whole of that year. I saw a good deal of the two chums in Sophomore and Junior years, as we belonged to the same club table, and we used to respect the quality of Peck's mind and heart, and love his cheerful and kindly manner. It was a great pleasure to talk with him, and he was one of the few men with whom we could exchange ideas on higher subjects than the usual topics of college interest, and yet not be bored. He was bright, sensitive, very true to his ideals, and gave promise as it seemed to us of a conspicuous career. But he was handicapped more than most of us will ever know by his physical condition, which at times discouraged him beyond endurance. Arthur Lincoln always held him up to me, however, as an example of how a man could busy himself in one kind of work or another, when apparently cut off by his limitations from what he would like to do. He was always doing what he could when he could not do what he would, and he accomplished a great deal for his town and for its libraries and



*Yours sincerely,  
Thomas B. Peck.*





schools by personal work, and found in his interest in genealogical researches a never-failing source of occupation.

C. H. DENNY.

HERBERT JAMES PRATT, son of James and Caroline (Bartlett) Pratt, was born in Medford, Massachusetts, May 8, 1841. He died in Plymouth, Massachusetts, January 21, 1915.

He was fitted for college at the Boston Public Latin School. After graduating from college he studied medicine for one year under Professor Jeffries Wyman. He then entered the Harvard Medical School, from which he graduated in July, 1868. From March 27, 1865, to May 24, 1865, he was acting assistant surgeon, United States Army, so that in this capacity he was in Virginia during the closing scenes of the Civil War. After graduating from the Medical School he went to Europe, and studied in Vienna and Berlin. At one time he opened an office for the practice of his profession in Denver, Colorado, but soon went back to Europe for further study and travel. From 1874, for nearly forty years, he continued to live abroad and to travel year by year, until he had investigated the greater part of the habitable world, largely in an unconventional way, and with a keen appreciation for manners and customs, for scenery and architecture. This was revealed in his conversation, his journals, and his letters to friends.

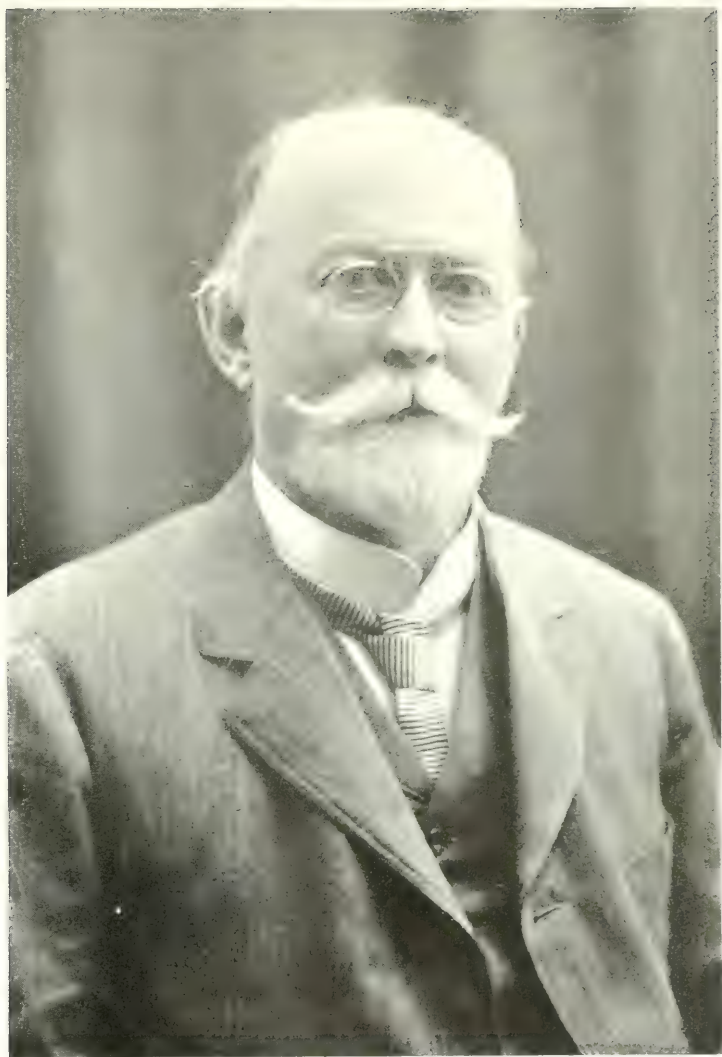
A mere list of dates and names is all that can be given here; but this will at least indicate the extent of his wanderings. In 1874 he visited England and Germany; in 1875, Germany, Italy, Dalmatia, and Istria; in 1876, Italy, Algiers, Germany, Spain, and Portugal; in 1877, Spain and Germany; in 1878, Germany, Greece, Turkey, Palestine, and Egypt; in 1879, Switzerland, Italy, and Egypt; in 1880, Hindostan, Persia, Turkey, Germany, Italy, and Tripoli; in 1881, Tripoli, Germany, Belgium, Holland, England, France, and Italy; in 1882, Italy, France, and Spain; in 1883, Algiers and the Desert, Tunisia, and Italy; in 1884-85, Europe, Central America, and South America; in 1886, United States, Sandwich Islands, and Australia; in 1887-88, China,

Japan, Persia, and India; in 1889 he was at home in the United States for a brief visit, but returned to Europe in September and sailed directly for Madagascar and the Islands of Réunion and Mauritius, Natal, and Cape Town; in 1890, St. Helena and Teneriffe, Italy, and Germany; in 1891, Norway, Sweden, and Russia; in 1892, Germany and Switzerland; in 1893, Algeria, Spain. After an interval of ten years he wrote from Algeria in 1903: "I am still a traveller and reader, but the years are getting on, and I am beginning to think it is time to go home to America and settle down for old age. The highway is free for all, but belongs rather to the next generation, a fact every day more evident."

In 1913, in February, he wrote: "In the last decade I was in North Africa in 1904 and in Greece in 1906. Otherwise I have been mostly in Italy — notably Florence."

In the autumn of 1913 Pratt returned to America and settled down quietly at Plymouth, Massachusetts, among relatives and congenial friends. He was nearly blind from cataract, which, however, did not mature sufficiently to warrant an operation. Yet even under this affliction he felt no lack of resources. He was a charming talker as well as a good linguist, fond of music, of art, and of books; and before infirmities had overwhelmed him his life came rather unexpectedly to an end.

The present writer, having been his schoolmate at the Boston Latin and one of his intimate friends in college, cannot refrain from saying in this place a few words about his own relations with our classmate. In the summer of 1887 Pratt looked me up at Shanghai. I passed him on to friends at Peking, and they assisted him to visit the Great Wall. He declared it one of the greatest and most impressive things he had seen on the earth's surface — he "could only characterize it as 'dynastic'!" A few weeks after, on my journey homewards, I rejoined Pratt in Japan. He was staying — and I stayed with him — at a little native hotel in Tokyo, and we went about the city, its parks, etc., together. He knew how to get, by a leisurely way of moving and of lingering, the genuine flavor of all he saw; and he could remember and



Sincerely yrs  
Herbert J. Pratt





describe everything — much that others might miss. He was warmly alive to the reminiscent; enjoyed recalling earlier days and youthful doings, college incidents, old friends. And it was the same thing when I passed a delightful hour with him at Plymouth, only the fifth day of last January. How little did I then imagine that I was never to see him again!

In his way of travelling, in the choice of places to “put up,” and in his enjoyment of the intimate life of the “humans” he met with he was unique. He was fond of the peasants and of their simple ways in all countries. He sought out the spots little known to ordinary travellers, where he might see the native life in simplicity and share in it. On his occasional visits to friends and relatives in America he was most welcome. He possessed a vivid and picturesque style of telling what he had seen and a delightful humor in relating incidents of his experience. While we were together in China he read to me a few passages from his journal, and I was much impressed by the fresh and lively color of his descriptions. He had, however, no intention apparently of ever publishing anything.

The funeral was at Plymouth, Monday, January 25. The Unitarian minister at that place conducted the service, and Professor Francis G. Peabody (Harvard 1869) made an address about Pratt so true and appreciative of the man, that it is a great privilege to be permitted to give it to his classmates.

Dr. Peabody said: “This is not a time either for eulogy or for mourning. To speak words of public praise would be an offence to this reserved and retiring man, whose way of life was one of inconspicuousness and solitude. To mourn his departure as untimely or premature would be to forget the gathering infirmities from which he is released. And yet it touches many of us deeply to lose the companionship of so unusual and so interesting a life. We have many friends who are accomplishing, achieving, and arriving, and the world needs those busy and efficient lives. But here, for once, was the restfulness of a detached personality, a sympathetic observer of the world, a monastic character, looking

down from his seclusion on the bustling world, like Longfellow's monk in Amalfi,

“ ‘Wondering unto what good end  
All this toil and traffic tend.’ ”

An ancient philosopher, being asked by a prince what was his occupation, answered, that life seemed to him like a great fair, where some people came to buy and sell, and others came simply to look on. These last, he says, are the philosophers or students of wisdom. They see all that is going on. Here, then, in this sense was a philosopher, who saw and enjoyed and smiled at the great fair of life, and perceived what was folly and what was worthy of a scholar, a gentleman, and a friend. All this made acquaintance with him restful, cheering, and educative. Europe and Asia, Italy and Persia, art and poetry, met at his discourse. He had been everywhere, seen every one, appreciated both refinement and simplicity, splendor and poverty, princes and peasants, learning, wit and beauty; yet he was content to live in the shadow of all these, with the light of his talk turned, not on himself, but on them. Who is there left alive who devotes strenuous days to polishing the translation of a Persian poem, yet repels any thought of publication as though it were an offence against intellectual virginity? It would be unfortunate to have many such cosmopolitan minds among the needs of the modern world; but it would be an intellectual and spiritual loss never to have known one man to whom the world's prizes were nothing, and the world itself, in all its experiences, a sufficient prize.

“And when, after many years of this free and wandering contentment, there closed round him the prison walls of limitation and gathering helplessness, what surprising patience and what indomitable courage adorned his latter days. The resources of the past remained for him to recall, the accumulated knowledge became a joy to impart, the habit of simplicity and restraint was his solace. The man of the world, deprived of Italy, enjoyed New England, and the gift for friendliness made him a welcome and delightful guest. It was a tranquil evening of a sunny life, whose happiness had been wrought out of the slightest incidents, and

whose contentment was found in quietness and solitude. Most of us must be involved in the business of life; but to-day we are grateful for a friend to whom life itself was a sufficient business, to whom the world was a drama, and friendship a mission, and contemplation a wise use of the day, and for whom all this philosophical detachment and habitual serenity prepared the way for an end of cheerful and patient peace."

Pratt's father died in 1852, his mother in 1858. Until 1859 he had lived in Medford; then he went to Cambridge. He roomed with Bishop in the Freshman year, and with Shreve for the rest of the college course. His vacations he spent with his relatives in Plymouth, and to Plymouth he returned as his career neared its end. He was never married. His sister, Miss Mary Pratt, is his nearest surviving relative.

E. B. DREW.













